GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:398
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
BUDGET AIRLINES
Francis George Shri K.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government to start Budget airlines to operate International Flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala had applied for starting an Airline to operate flights to Middle East; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) to (d): Except Kerala, the Government has not received any proposal from other State Governments to operate budget airlines in international routes. Though no proposal for formation of any airline by the name `Air Kerala` is pending with the Government for clearance, the Government of Kerala had informed that a public limited company, `Air Kerala International Services Limited` has been registered as a Special Purpose Vehicle for a budget airline project. Government of Kerala requested this Ministry for exemption to the proposed airline from the stipulated conditions relating to fleet size and the length of operation in the domestic sector for an airline to be considered for international operations.This request was not considered in the light of the existing Government Policy regarding the minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft and experience of 5 years continuous operations in domestic sector for permitting an Indian scheduled carrier to operate international services.